

25 July 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Blake

STAT THROUGH :
SUBJECT : American Bicentennial and CIA

1. As you requested, I have reviewed the contents of the package concerning Bicentennial Information Network (BINET). This memorandum is to inform you of the nature of its contents, but more than that, to alert you to some of the implications concerning the Agency's participation in the Bicentennial celebration planned for 1976.

2. For the time being at least, the subject of BINET may be considered a dormant issue. The BINET system, which has been in operation for about a year, consists of a Bicentennial information data base and a group of programs to establish, update, and permit controlled access to the data base. It is designed to provide a means for handling the large volume of information concerning Bicentennial projects and events of significance. The memorandum to the Agency from the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission (dated 25 July 1973), which described the nature and purpose of BINET, also contained a request for input to the system; that is, Bicentennial projects under development, to be returned to the ARBC by 31 August 1973. In the almost 11 months since the deadline, the Agency has neither responded to the request for input to BINET nor initiated development of Bicentennial projects.

STAT 3. In preparing to review the BINET package, at suggestion, I got in touch with who recently became curator of the Agency's Historical Intelligence Collection. In a recent note to offered his services, if needed, in the Agency's Bicentennial program. He

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maintained by Mr. Walter Pforzheimer, who until his retirement was acting for Mr. Brownman as the Agency's contact with the ARBC. I have also reviewed this file and find its contents worthy of your consideration.

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3. The call for Federal agencies to become involved in Bicentennial programs apparently goes back to 1970, if not before. Since early 1970 there has been a fairly steady flow of correspondence from either the White House or the ARBC to heads of Federal agencies. This correspondence generally has requested the submission of projects for review by the ARBC. As the attached chronology reveals, the Agency has responded to some of this correspondence by naming a point of contact and offering some assistance to the Commission, but accordingly expressing doubt as to the feasibility of CIA participation.

4. To my knowledge, no decision has yet been made as to whether the Agency will or will not participate. It would appear from the Presidential memoranda of 18 May 1971 and 28 July 1972 that we have no choice, yet no sanctions have been imposed for our failure to respond as requested. A determination one way or the other would seem desirable in view of the decreasing time frame.

5. You will note that the last item of correspondence officially designated Mr. Brownman as the point of contact with the ARBC. Assuming this will be another of your many "hats", I have taken the liberty of drafting a letter from the DCI to the Counsellor to the President for the Bicentennial designating you as the new point of contact (Attachment B).

6. It is recommended that, at your convenience, [redacted] and I meet with you to discuss (1) the feasibility of Agency participation in the Bicentennial program and (2) if feasible, the nature and extent of such participation.

Attachments:

- A - Chronology of Correspondence
- B - Draft letter for DCI signature

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[redacted] has a strong personal interest in this program, but I think we should continue to go with a very low profile. There is no great urgency, and you may possibly want the AD to monitor this program until 5 August. I would hold off on a Colly letter [redacted]

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Attachment A

Chronology of Correspondence
Pertaining to Bicentennial

22 Jan 70 Letter from Chm, ARBC to DCI

Asks for proposals of programs for Bicentennial by 1 April 1970.

9 Feb 70 Letter from ED-Compt to Chm, ARBC

States no specific proposals to make at time and not sure how CIA fits into program. Designates Mr. Walter Pforzheimer as point of contact.

18 May 71 Memo fr President to Heads of Federal Agencies

Requests cooperation with ARBC and designation of representatives "with authority" for Bicentennial matters.

21 May 71 Memo fr DCI to President

Confirms Pforzheimer designation.

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6 Oct 71 Memo fr [] to ADDI

Cites Pforzheimer memo of 21 Sept requesting [] send ARBC items dealing with National events being celebrated elsewhere and states step taken to do so.

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19 Oct 71 Memo fr Mr. Pforzheimer to ARBC

Confirms arrangements made with []

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28 Jul 72 Memo fr President to Heads of Federal Agencies

States cooperation with ARBC "inadequate" and requests each agency head to (1) "designate an official of no lower than Assistant Secretary rank" to carry Bicentennial role and (2) send ARBC detailed report of Bicentennial planning by 18 August.

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(undated) Draft letter fr ED-Compt to ARBC

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Acknowledges President's memo of 28 July, but suggests nature of CIA offers little to contribute to Bicentennial program; cites [] assistance and offers to help in any way possible. (Note: cannot determine from file if letter actually sent.)

31 Aug 73 Letter fr Counsellor to President to DCI

Introduces new member of staff for Bicentennial matters and asks full cooperation.

13 Sep 73 Letter fr DCI to Counsellor to President

Acknowledges letter of 31 Aug and designates Mr. Brownman as point of contact.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Mrs. Tobin Armstrong
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Anne:

This is to inform you that Mr. John F. Blake, Deputy Director for Management and Services, is designated the point of contact with the Bicentennial Committee, vice Mr. Harold L. Brownman, resigned.

Let me assure you of our continued interest in the Bicentennial. Mr. Blake will be pleased to provide whatever assistance is necessary.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby
Director